

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending and at issue in the application. At the time of the Office action claims 1-28 were pending. The Office action rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Waesterlid (WO 01/65807). New claims 29 and 30 are added by this amendment. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

New claim 29 is added to recite, *inter alia*, that the plurality of logon identifiers correspond to a plurality of natural persons. This is supported in the specification at least at page 9.

New claim 30 is added to recite, *inter alia*, that a single instance of the real-time communication service support the plurality of logon identifiers. This is supported in the specification at least at page 8.

DRAWINGS

Formal drawings to replace those originally submitted are attached as Appendix A.

SECTION 102 REJECTION

The Office action rejected claims 1-28 as being anticipated by Waesterlid. The applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Independent claims 1 and 19 recite, in part, provide/providing “a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber, each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponding to one of the plurality of users so that the plurality of users access real-time communication service via the first subscriber.” Similarly, claim 10 recites, in part, “each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponds to one of the plurality of users so that the plurality of users access real-time communication service via the first subscriber.”

The examiner alleges that enrolling various subscribers in a group “where access is allowed through an ‘administrator’ subscriber” allegedly anticipates users access of real-time communication service via the first subscriber. This allegation is not correct. The ordinary meaning of ‘allow’ in this context is “[t]o make provision for; assign” (*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*). The ordinary meaning of ‘via’ is “[b]y way of” or “[b]y means of.” The registration process of Waesterlid assigns users to an affinity group. This is not the same as, nor can it be substituted for, access of real time communication service via or ‘by way of’ the first subscriber.

Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Waesterlid that the administrator role taken by the user creating the affinity group is given a separate and distinct logon identifier such that more than one logon identifier, corresponding to one of a plurality of users, accesses the real-time communication service via the first subscriber (see Waesterlid page 11, lines 18-23). The examiner appears to have used impermissible hindsight to read into Waesterlid characteristics of the current disclosure that are simply not present in the reference.

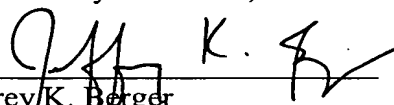
Moreover, Waesterlid teaches that each subscriber has his or her own device and correspondingly his or her own logon identifier (abstract; page 3, lines 12-14 and lines 16-17). Waesterlid does not teach or suggest the many-to-one relationship between logon identifiers (plurality of logon identifiers) and a subscriber (first subscriber) described in the independent claims.

For at least these reasons, Waesterlid does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Therefore, claims 1, 10, and 19 are allowable and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be removed. Accordingly, the each of the respective dependent claims 2-9, 28-29; 11-28; and 20-28 are also allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. A fee of \$36 for two additional dependent claims over the original 28 claims is attached. Should additional fees be due the Commissioner is directed to deposit account 13-2855.

Dated: July 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jeffrey K. Berger

Registration No.: 51,460

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Agent for Applicant